

More than Books

Catch “The Civil War at Sea” program tonight

Tonight, Freeport fans of Dr. Edward Finch will have the opportunity to join Ed for a PowerPoint presentation on “The Civil War at Sea.” While focusing on the role maritime forces played in the American Civil War, Ed will examine the role of naval forces in the strategies of the North and the South, the naval successes and failures for both sides, and the deep water (i.e., “at sea”) and brown water (river) operations of both sides, and assesses the impact of naval operations on the outcome of the war.

Ed has given this talk across Illinois as one of the Illinois Humanities Council Roads Scholars. He is scheduled to present “The Civil War at Sea” in April at the Great Lakes Naval Museum.

We don’t have to wait until then or travel out of town to hear Ed, thanks to the library's American History Lecture Series, which is sponsored by the Freeport Public Library Foundation and the Stephenson County Museum.

Programs begins at 7 p.m. Come early for good seats and great cookies, courtesy of the Freeport Public Library Foundation and Sandy Schubert, proprietor of the library’s Gallery Café.

Although Ed is a tough act to follow, the American History Speakers Series continues through February with four more super presenters, Andy Dvorak, Jim Phillips, George Buss, and Martin Quirk. I am looking forward to each of their talks and have cleared my calendar so I won’t have to miss a single one.

Series brochures are available at two of my personal favorite places in town, 9 East Coffee and Cannova’s, as well as at the library.

February is Food for Fines Month

February is Food for Fines Month at Freeport Library. For every can of food or non-perishable food item brought in during the month of February, the library will “forgive” up to \$1 in fines. All food collected stays in the community and will be divided between the Salvation Army and Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC).

Library users - and abusers - have a chance to do two good deeds at once: clear those pesky overdue fines from their records and help others less fortunate in the process.

You don’t have to have library fines to donate to the drive. Please consider bringing in non-perishable, nutritious food, such as peanut butter, canned meats, chili, tuna, baby food, or baby formula, and help match or even beat last year’s donation record of over 1,000 pounds of food for the needy.

"Why February?" a friend asked me. Well, it allows us to take advantage of a valentine theme and ask that you "Have a Heart and Donate Food for Fines." It is also a good time, post-holidays, to help replenish supplies at the Salvation Army and FACC.

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